

**Name:** Christine S. Aiken, Ph.D.

**Title:** Home Based Primary Care Psychologist

**School:** The Catholic University of America

**Internship:** Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System,  
2009 – 2010

**License:** Licensed in Alabama, 2011 – Present

**Duties:** Dr. Aiken serves on the Home Based Primary Care (HBPC) team located at the Pensacola JACC.

This team provides interdisciplinary care in the homes of Veterans living with complex, chronic disease. Dr. Aiken provides psychological assessment and treatment services to Veterans enrolled in HBPC, as well as caregiver education and support. She also serves as Co-Chair of the VAGCHCS Pain Management Committee.

**Professional:** Dr. Aiken's clinical and research interests include treatment of chronic pain, assessment and management of suicidal risk, geropsychology, and acceptance and commitment therapy. Her theoretical orientation is eclectic, with an emphasis on cognitive-behavioral interventions.

**Personal:** Dr. Aiken enjoys spending time with her children, keeping up with friends, volunteering at her church, and taking walks by the bay.



**Name:** Ronald W. Alexander, Ph.D.

**Titles(s):** Clinical Health Psychologist

**School:** University of Alabama, Birmingham

**Internship:** Wilford Hall Medical Center,  
Lackland AFB, San Antonio, TX

**Post-doctoral Fellowship:** Clinical Health  
Psychology, Wilford Hall Medical Center,  
Lackland AFB, San Antonio, TX

**License:** Licensed in Kansas, 1999 – Present



**Duties:** Dr. Alexander is responsible for providing a full spectrum of health psychology/ behavioral medicine services within the medical center. He is currently involved with the Health Psychology/Behavioral Medicine Clinic, MH Integrated Primary Care, Pain Clinic, MOVE! Program and the Traumatic Brain Injury/Polytrauma screening program.

**Professional:** Dr. Alexander's theoretical orientation is primarily cognitive/behavioral with an emphasis on comprehensive biopsychosocial assessment and treatment. He is an avid supporter of the integration of mental health professionals into primary care clinics, with strong emphasis on the behavioral health consultant (BHC) model of care. He has special interest in the proper referral, and comprehensive assessment and treatment of veterans returning from the current conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq. Other clinical and research interventions on quality of life and the overall reduction of health care costs. He is in the process of obtaining ABPP certification in Clinical Health Psychology.

**Name:** Kellee R. Bivens, Ph.D.

**Titles(s):** VA Gulf Coast Health Behavior Coordinator

**School:** University of Alabama

**Internship:** University of Alabama at Birmingham/Birmingham VAMC

**License:** Licensed in Alabama, 2009 – Present



**Duties:** As Health Behavior Coordinator (HBC) for VA Gulf Coast, Dr. Bivens participates in the training of staff in health coaching and motivational interviewing. As HBC, she serves as co-chair of the Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Committee. She currently is involved in facilitation of the MOVE! Weight Management Program and Smoking Cessation Program at the Joint Ambulatory Care Center (JACC) – Pensacola Outpatient Clinic.

**Professional:** Clinical and research interests include chronic pain, health behavior change, behavioral sleep medicine, acceptance and commitment therapy, and motivational interviewing. Her theoretical orientation is primarily cognitive behavioral.

**Personal:** Interests include reading, going to the movies or watching DVDs, spending time with her beagle, Logan, and watching Alabama Football.

**Name:** Scott A. Cardin, Ph.D.

**Titles(s):** Director of Postdoctoral Training;  
Outpatient Mental Health Psychologist

**School:** Texas A&M University

**Internship:** University Houston Counseling and  
Psychological Service

**Post-doc:** Michael E. DeBakey VAMC, Mental  
Illness Research, Education, and Clinical Center  
(MIRECC )



**License:** Licensed in Mississippi, 2008 – Present

**Duties:** Director of Postdoctoral Training; Mental Health Outpatient Clinic

**Professional:** Dr. Cardin's primary clinical interests include rural mental health, supervision/training, psychotherapy process, Mindfulness, and language factors. His theoretical orientation is eclectic with an emphasis on psychodynamic therapy. He completed a two-year MIRECC Postdoctoral Fellowship in Advanced Psychology with an emphasis in research. His research efforts since joining the VA Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System have revolved around rural mental health. He has ongoing grant funded research examining psychotherapy utilization among rurally living veterans. Dr. Cardin serves on the Executive Council of the Mississippi Psychological Association as their organization's Rural Health Coordinator. He also is a Chair of the Department of Veterans Affairs Psychology Training Council's (VAPTC) Rural and Small Training Program Workgroup.

**Personal:** Dr. Cardin enjoys reading, creative writing, recreational sports (such as golf and Frisbee golf), and exploring the Gulf Coast with his wife and daughter.

**Name:** Michael A. Carlton, Ph.D.

**Title(s):** Home Based Primary Care Psychologist (HBPC)

**Internship:** Biloxi VA Medical Center, 1998

**School:** University of Southern Mississippi

**License:** Licensed in Alabama, 2000 – present



**Duties:** Dr. Carlton is responsible for providing psychological services to veterans enrolled in the Home Based Primary Care (HBPC) program. These services include assessing cognitive disorders, performing decisional capacity (health and financial) evaluations, and participating as a member of the HBPC interdisciplinary treatment team. He also supervises interns on the HBPC rotation.

**Professional:** Dr. Carlton's professional interests include health psychology, traumatic stress, and examining the use of audio-visual aids and bio-feedback to enhance therapeutic outcomes. His theoretical orientation is cognitive-behavioral and eclectic. Dr. Carlton is a lecturer in psychology at the University of South Alabama in Mobile and is the treasurer for the Alabama Psychological Association.

**Personal:** His personal interests include playing guitar, sitting in on jam sessions, listening to music, fishing, and spending time with family.

**Name:** Jack C. Carney, Ph.D.

**Title(s):** Assistant Chief, Psychology

**School:** Tennessee State University

**Internship:** James H. Quillen VA Medical Center, 2004-2005

**License:** Licensed in Alabama, 2006 – Present

**Duties:** Dr. Carney is the Assistant Chief, Psychology Service. He is the clinical supervisor of all staff psychologists. In addition to his administrative role, he provides long term project supervision and administrative rotation supervision.

**Professional:** Dr. Carney's professional interests include personality assessment, acceptance and commitment therapy, end-of-life care, traumatic stress, and health psychology. His theoretical orientation is object relations with interpersonal and cognitive-behavioral interventions.

**Personal:** Favorite avocations include swimming with his children, attending local plays, boogie boarding at Perdido Key, finding new sushi restaurants, and going walking with his wife.



**Name:** Linda M. Cox, Ph.D.

**Title:** Supervisory Psychologist/Clinical Coordinator  
PRRTP

**School:** University of Southern Mississippi

**Internship:** Iowa State University Counseling Center

**License:** Licensed in Mississippi 1998 – Present

**Duties:** Dr. Cox coordinates the PRRTP, which is a psychosocial residential program for veterans seeking help with substance dependency issues and/or PTSD. She works with a multidisciplinary team in determining admissions to the program. She also coordinates the PSR (Psychosocial Rehabilitation Program), which is a program focused on helping Veterans develop effective work skills and obtain employment.

**Professional:** Dr. Cox's professional interests include Clinical Supervision, Mental Health Administration, Evidence Based Practices, Women's Issues, and the implementation of spirituality into counseling and psychotherapy, most notably, meditative and mindfulness practices. Her theoretical orientation is integrative with a strong emphasis on Cognitive-Behavioral therapy.

**Personal:** Dr. Cox loves music, especially singing and playing the piano. She enjoys gardening, walking her dog, and cooking for family and friends. She is also a self-pronounced bookworm who reads historical fiction and the occasional murder mystery. She and her husband love going to movies and having friends over for cook-outs.



**Name:** Candace M. Drake, Psy.D.

**Title(s):** PTSD Psychologist

**School:** University of Indianapolis

**Internship:** VA Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System, 2009 – 2010

**License:** In Progress

**Duties:** Dr. Drake is the psychologist for the PTSD Clinic at the Joint Ambulatory Care Center (JACC) in Pensacola, FL. In this role, she conducts both individual and group psychotherapy, with an emphasis on evidenced-based treatments for PTSD, specifically Cognitive Processing Therapy and Prolonged Exposure. Groups run by Dr. Drake include process groups, a monthly Recovery group, a women's MST group, a PTSD Family Support Group, and soon to come, an Image Rehearsal Treatment Group for nightmare sufferers.

**Professional:** Dr. Drake's professional interests include a commitment to the training program, psychotherapy, and consuming research regarding traumatic brain injury and its implications for those diagnosed with PTSD. She utilizes many CBT approaches to PTSD but also appreciates and incorporates components of Interpersonal Therapy.

**Personal:** Dr. Drake's personal interests include spending time with her husband, family, friends, and boxer (Sunshine). She also loves football and frequently dominates in Fantasy Football Leagues. GO COLTS!





**Name:** Shannon K. S. Fussell, Ph.D.

**Title(s):** Assistant Director of Intern Training;  
Integrated Primary Care-Mental Health Psychologist

**School:** Auburn University

**Internship:** The University Counseling Center –  
Florida State University, 2007 – 2008

**License:** Licensed in Georgia, 2009 – Present



**Duties:** Dr. Fussell works with Veterans as they present to the Outpatient Primary Care clinic. She provides intake and triage for veterans initiating mental health services, responds to emergent mental health concerns in Primary Care and the Emergency Department, provides short-term individual therapy, and engages in case management activities. She coordinates the training program website.

**Professional:** Professional interests include the interface between mental and physical health, developmental psychology, the role of the therapeutic alliance in treatment outcomes, and time limited treatments.

**Personal:** Interests include being outside, cooking and sampling new foods, playing and listening to music, watching baseball, and spending time with family and friends.

**Name:** Debbie Javorsky, Ph.D.

**Title(s):** Clinical Neuropsychologist

**School:** University of Rhode Island

**Internship:** Boston VA Medical Center

**Post-doc:** Brown University Clinical Psychology  
Training Consortium (Adult Neuropsychology  
Specialization)

**License:** Licensed in New Hampshire, 2002 – Present

**Duties:** Dr. Javorsky is a Supervisory Psychologist and a Neuropsychologist here at the VA Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System. She runs the Biloxi Division Neuropsychology Clinic wherein she responds to consults and supervises assessment and integrated report writing for our Internship. In August 2011 she will be the Cognitive and Neuropsychology Seminar facilitator.

**Professional:** Professional interests include neuropsychology of dementia, PTSD, and TBI (especially mild TBI), and neuropsychological test development. She utilizes a flexible battery approach to neuropsychological evaluations. Her theoretical approach to psychotherapy is cognitive-behavioral.

**Personal:** Some of Dr. Javorsky's personal interests are knitting, crocheting, making jewelry, spending time with family and friends (which includes spoiling the grandkids), enjoying the sunshine on the Gulf Coast, and keeping fit.



**Name:** Clinton W. Martin, Jr., Ph.D.

**Title:** Staff Psychologist

**School:** University of Southern Mississippi

**Internship:** Topeka VA Medical Center, 1977

**License:** Licensed Psychologist in Mississippi,  
1982 – Present



**Duties:** Dr. Martin is responsible for the provision of a full range of psychological services to an inpatient psychiatry interdisciplinary team. He coordinates the Assessment Seminar within the Psychology Internship Program. He is a member of the G. V. (Sonny) Montgomery VA Medical Center's Institutional Review Board (IRB).

**Professional:** Dr. Martin's professional interests include personality assessment, training, supervision, and research. His orientation is psychodynamic.

**Personal:** His personal interests include computers, photography, tinkering with a variety of mechanical objects and historical research.

**Name:** Desmon C. Mitchell, Ph. D.

**Title(s):** Outpatient Mental Health Psychologist

**School:** The University of Southern Mississippi

**Internship:** Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System, 2008

**License:** Licensed in Mississippi 2009 – Present

**Duties:** Dr. Mitchell is responsible for providing psychological services for the Outpatient Mental Health (OMH) Clinic. These services include: individual psychotherapy, comprehensive psychological assessments, suicide prevention services and other crisis interventions, participating in the interdisciplinary treatment team in the OMH Clinic, and serving as a mental health liaison to other areas and services in the hospital.

**Professional:** Dr. Mitchell's professional interests include: sociocultural factors contributing to functioning/impairment, psychotic disorders, depressive disorders, and the role of cognitions, beliefs and expectations in health. His theoretical orientation is philosophical.

**Personal:** Dr. Mitchell's personal interests include reading, listening to music (especially live music performances), watching/attending college football games, spending time with friends and family, hanging out at the beach, and spending quality time with his dogs.



**Name:** Benjamin Parker, Ph.D.

**Title(s):** PTSD Psychologist, Chair of Disruptive Behavior Committee, Coordinator for Psychology Continuing Education Programming

**School:** West Virginia University

**Internship:** Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System, 2007

**License:** Licensed in Mississippi in 2009 – Present



**Duties:** Dr. Parker is responsible for providing psychological services for the PTSD Outpatient Clinic. These services include: performing biopsychosocial assessments; conducting psychoeducational and process groups for veterans seeking treatment for PTSD; providing individual therapy for veterans seeking treatment for PTSD and the related sequelae of mental disorders, e.g., depression, generalized anxiety, panic; engaging in case management activities; and participating in liaison services with members of the interdisciplinary PCT treatment team and providers from various service areas in the hospital.

**Professional:** Dr. Parker's professional interests include traumatic stress, behavioral medicine, prevention strategies, and positive psychology, especially in the area of forgiveness. His theoretical orientation is behavioral.

**Personal:** Dr. Parker's personal interests include music, movies, and enjoying time with family and friends.

**Name:** Jefferson O. Rogers, Psy.D.

**Title(s):** Geropsychologist, Chairperson, Ethics Consultation

**School:** Florida Institute of Technology

**Internship:** Washington, DC VAMC 1991 – 1992

**Postdoctoral Fellowship:** Geropsychology, Little Rock VAMC, 1993



**License:** Licensed Psychologist in Mississippi, 1995 – Present

**Duties:** Dr. Rogers supervises students on the Geropsychology rotation and lectures on geropsychology. Clinical duties include providing psychological services to the Community Living Center, the Dementia Unit, the Transitional Care Unit, and hospice patients. He additionally serves as Chairperson of the Ethics Consultation service of the VA Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care and has been Interim Director of Training.

**Professional:** Dr. Rogers' professional interests include geropsychology, neuropsychology, assessment of decisional capacity, tobacco cessation, and health care ethics consultation. His theoretical orientation is eclectic/pragmatic with a cognitive-behavioral emphasis.

**Personal:** Avocations include regularly performing music at events and haunts across the Coast, cooking, dining, sartorial matters, projects around the house, and indulging his dog, granddaughter, & wife.

**Name:** Angela Ross, PhD

**Title:** Neuropsychologist, Joint Ambulatory Care Center (JACC)

**School:** Auburn University

**Internship:** Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System, Biloxi, MS 2007 – 2008

**License:** Licensed in Alabama, 2009 – Present

**Duties:** Testing & assessment, differential diagnosis

**Professional:** Clinical and research interests include cognition and aging, cognitive rehabilitation & neuroplasticity, mindfulness and yoga philosophy, and integration of psychology into mainstream medical practice.

**Personal:** Dr. Ross enjoys reading and outdoor activities.





**Name:** Gustave F.P. Sison, Ph.D.

**Title(s):** Chief, Psychology Service;  
Coordinator of Research and Development;  
Administration, Research and Long Term  
Therapy Supervisor

**School:** University of Southern Mississippi

**Internship:** Albany Medical Center/VA Medical  
Consortium, Albany, New York, 1982 – 1982



**License:** Licensed Psychologist in Mississippi, 1986 – Present

**Duties:** Dr. Sison is Chief Clinical Psychologist and Employee Assistance Program Coordinator at the Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System, where he also coordinates all medical, surgical, and mental health research activities.

**Professional:** Dr. Sison is a practicing clinical psychologist with over 20 years experience as a clinician, researcher, and behavioral health/change consultant. In addition to heading a consulting firm that specializes in organizational behavioral change, management consulting, stress/conflict management, and outcomes measurement, he teaches a doctoral course in health psychology, and is the author of 18 professional publications in the behavioral sciences.

**Personal:** Personal interests include canoeing, kayaking, numismatics, and history.



**Name:** Jane S. Varner, Ph.D.

**Title(s):** Director of Intern Training; Staff Psychologist

**School:** The University of Southern Mississippi

**Internship:** VA Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System, 2008 – 2009

**License:** Licensed in Mississippi, 2011 – Present



**Duties:** Dr. Varner is the psychologist for the Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Center (PRRC) and is one of the psychologists for the Psychosocial Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program (PR RTP). Her duties include conducting group therapy, working with individual patients in brief therapy, serving as a mental health consultant for the PRRC program, conducting psychological assessments as needed, and participating on PRRC and PR RTP interdisciplinary treatment teams. Therapy groups include Cognitive-Behavioral Depression and Anxiety Group, Social Skills Training, Basic Coping Skills, Mental Health Education Group, Behavioral Chronic Pain Management Group, and Healthy Sleep Group. She is certified in the VA evidence-based Social Skills Training for Serious Mental Illness. Dr. Varner also serves as the Special Topics Seminar Coordinator for the internship training program.

**Professional:** Dr. Varner's professional interests include behavioral medicine/health psychology, specifically behavioral chronic pain management, and treatment of serious mental illness within the recovery model of mental health. Her theoretical orientation is cognitive-behavioral.

**Personal:** Her personal interests include reading, watching movies, traveling, and spending time with her husband, family, and friends.

**Name:** Kara E. Vick, Ph.D.

**Title(s):** Assistant Director of Postdoctoral Training;  
PTSD IOP Psychologist, Evidenced Based Coordinator

**School:** The University of South Dakota

**Internship:** VA Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care  
System, 2008 – 2009

**License:** Licensed in Mississippi, 2011 – Present



**Duties:** Dr. Vick is the psychologist for the PTSD IOP. Her duties in this role include: completing intake psychological assessment interviews, conducting lecture and process group therapy, working with individual patients and participating on an interdisciplinary treatment team. Group therapy includes groups in Dialectical Behavioral Therapy, In-Vivo Exposure, Anger Management, PTSD Education, Communication Skills Training, Cognitive Processing Therapy, Special Topics, Relaxation and Journaling, and Prolonged Exposure. All groups utilize cognitive behavioral, cognitive processing or dialectical behavioral techniques. Dr. Vick also serves as the local Evidenced Based Coordinator. In this role, she identifies training needs of staff across VA Gulf Coast VHCS' different service areas. She serves as the Diversity Coordinator for the internship training program and teaches different projective assessment techniques (Rorschach, TAT, etc) for the Assessment Seminar.

**Professional:** Dr. Vick's professional interests include Rural Mental Health, issues related to aging and the phenomenology of PTSD. Her interests also include the practice of Evidenced-Based therapies, including cognitive behavioral, cognitive processing and dialectical behavioral therapies. Her theoretical orientation is cognitive-behavioral.

**Personal:** Her personal interests include reading historical fiction novels, running, watching college football and spending time with her husband and three cats.